

## SMC Recieves James Lee Witt Award for Excellence

SMC has received the highest award at the national level. The Association for State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) awarded SMC the James Lee Witt Local Award for Excellence during its May national conference in St. Louis.

The Witt award recognizes local programs and projects focusing on comprehensive floodplain and stormwater management.

"The Stormwater Management Commission's partnerships have underscored the theme at the local level that no one agency or group can do it all. The Commission provides the local expertise to coordinate stormwater activities to over 90 jurisdictions, and strives to stretch a limited property tax based budget by leveraging literally millions in grants and cost-share funds to get projects in the ground and to manage watersheds," said Awards Chairman Dan Accurti.



*(l-r): Sharing the James Lee Witt Award are Chairman Steve Mountsier; Former Chairman Dick Welton; Board Secretary Bonnie Thomson Carter; Board Treasurer Tim Perry, and Executive Director Ward Miller.*

Accurti also praised SMC's programs to raise flood awareness and mitigation efforts. The award was presented to SMC Executive Director Ward Miller.

After receiving the award, SMC took the opportunity to recognize the efforts of former SMC chairman, Dick Welton.

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## Lake County Gardens Subdivision Focus of Mitigation Plan

Repetitive flooding is being addressed through a site-specific flood hazard mitigation plan for the Lake County Gardens Subdivision in Waukegan.

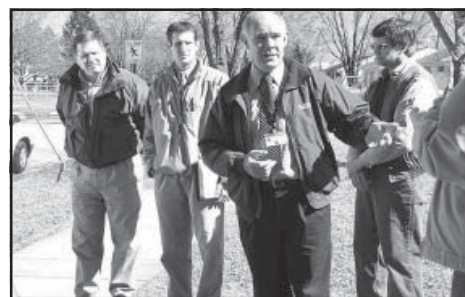
The plan, a cooperative project between SMC, City of Waukegan and the County of Lake, will make recommendations on mitigation action items like floodproofing.

"For years flooding has been an issue for the folks in this neighborhood. We now have the resources and funding to study the issue and come up with some working solutions," said Bob

Sabonjian, SMC Commissioner.

Officials from the City and SMC toured the neighborhood to get a first hand look at the impacted area. The planning process is underway and includes compiling an inventory of the flooding history, sources of flooding and floodplain mapping.

The \$55,000 study is funded by the County's Capital Improvement Program and SMC. This is the third site-specific mitigation plan for SMC. Another planning effort is nearing completion in North Chicago.



*Mitigation Plan partners walking the site in April were (l-r): Pat Needham, 7th Ward Alderman; Jason Obergfell, Watershed Engineer; John Moore, Waukegan City Engineer; Bob Sabonjian, SMC Commissioner.*

# NRCS Funding Moves Ahead for Watershed Planning Projects

Over \$1.27 million in grant funding awarded to the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) will be used for four subwatershed plans.

Through the efforts of Sen. Dick Durbin, Rep. Phil Crane and Rep. Mark Kirk, a \$1.27 million Congressional appropriation through the U.S.D.A.-Natural Resources Conservation Service will be used for two comprehensive subwatershed studies in the Fox River watershed and two in the Lake Michigan watershed. The four sub-watersheds are considered "high priority" for SMC because of their development potential and existing and potential flooding and water quality problems. Those sub-watersheds are Fish Lake Drain and Eagle/Round Lake Drain in the Fox, and Kellogg Creek and Dead River/Bull Creek in Lake Michigan.

Watershed planning efforts includes stakeholder outreach, a

floodplain study and remapping, flood damage assessment, stream inventory, water quality and natural areas assessment and formulation of action plans for watershed management.

A key ingredient is flood damage assessment that includes:

- Collecting available data from the municipalities, townships, and individual residents; compiling that data to determine flood problem areas;
- Using updated floodplain mapping to identify additional potential flood problem areas;
- Collecting site-specific survey data for the problem areas that appear to have the most severe flooding issues; and
- Developing possible solutions for the flooding problems

Interested stakeholders should watch our website for more information.

## Skokie Headwaters Study Underway

A collaborative effort between SMC, the East Skokie Drainage District, the Cities of Waukegan and Park City and Lake County Press Inc. has kicked off a feasibility study in the Skokie River headwaters of the North Branch of the Chicago River.

The Skokie Headwaters Flood Damage Reduction Feasibility Study (Skokie Headwaters Study) is a multi-objective study focusing on flood damage reduction, wetland restoration, water quality improvement and other benefits.

The 75-acre study area is located in the vicinity of Washington Street and Belvidere Road near Teske Boulevard; the study area straddles the borders of Waukegan, Park City and Gurnee.

Study consultant, STS Consultants, Ltd. of Vernon Hills will focus on multi-objective means of flood storage and wetland resoration

on parcels both north and south of Washington Street. Portions of the 75 acres were historically used as an unlicensed landfill and a racetrack, so there are likely to be contamination and brownfield issues. The City of Park City is seeking Brownfield cleanup funds from the County of Lake for one of the parcels.

A substantial portion of the 75 acres is shown as wetland and/or floodplain/floodway on Lake County Wetland Inventory and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping respectively.

The \$40,000 co-funded study is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Grants and other cost-share funding will be sought at that time to begin implementation of plan action items. For more information, contact Sean Wiedel (swiedel@co.lake.il.us).



(l-r): Some of our partners: Marty Buehler, LCDOT; Rep. Karen May; Glenn Ryback, Vil. of Wadsworth; Pat Bleck, Bleck Engineering; Karl Molek, LC Dept. of Planning.

## National Award

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Welton saw the need for county/municipal coordination on stormwater issues back in 1986 and played a key role in pushing for state legislation to create countywide stormwater programs.

SMC Chairman Steve Mountsier emphasized the need for cooperation at every level, and the value of staff expertise.

"This award is about partnerships and cooperation. Everything we do, every project we have undertaken is based on the success of those key ingredients. Equally important is the professionalism and dedication of the staff. The staff makes it happen and they deserve the credit for receiving this award. Thank you for garnering this award for us," said Chairman Steve Mountsier.

SMC also received the Illinois Association for Floodplain and Stormwater Management's "Mitigation" Award for its buyout program and outreach efforts. The award recognizes local efforts to mitigate flood hazards.



Ward Miller, and Pete Brathwaite of Congressman Crane's Office.



## WDO Amendment Process Begins

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has begun the process of amending the Watershed Development Ordinance (WDO). Amendments will address:

- 30-40 enhancements or changes on the Isolated Wetland section and other general clarifications generated by staff and others during program implementation
  - FEMA recommended additions that will greatly simplify the WDO adoption process for communities
  - NPDES Phase II illicit discharge and detection language
  - Farmland language as suggested by the Farmland Regulations Committee of the Lake County Farm Bureau.
- TAC meetings are open to the public.

## Public Hearing Set for Sequoit Plan

Stakeholders in the Sequoit Creek watershed are invited to view and comment on the draft Sequoit Creek Watershed Management Plan. The 60-day public comment period begins July 11; a public meeting is scheduled for Aug. 13, 2-5 p.m. 10th Floor Assembly Room, County Building, Waukegan. The plan can be viewed starting July 11 at public libraries located in the watershed or at the Lake Villa and Antioch village halls and SMC. Comments can be made in writing and mailed to: Sara Agahi, LCSMC, 333-B Peterson Rd., Libertyville, IL 60048 or emailed to [sagahi@co.lake.il.us](mailto:sagahi@co.lake.il.us). To view the draft plan and Executive Summary online, go to: [www.co.lake.il.us/smc/sequoit](http://www.co.lake.il.us/smc/sequoit).

## NPDES II Local Government Highlights

**CONGRATULATIONS.** Lake County communities are commended for meeting the NPDES II permit application deadline of March 10, 2003. Working through the Municipal Advisory Committee, communities were responsible for filing their own permit applications based on a model developed by SMC and MAC. Follow up MAC meetings will continue so communities can share information, and SMC will continue to provide technical assistance and information.

## Newport Study to Target Restoration

Using \$55,000 from a Congressional appropriation, spearheaded by Rep. Phil Crane and Rep. Mark Kirk, through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Environmental Programs and Management (EPM) budget, the SMC is undertaking a comprehensive watershed planning effort for the Newport Drainage Ditch, a subwatershed of the Des Plaines River watershed.

The Newport Drainage Ditch watershed is relatively undeveloped compared to most of the rest of Lake County. This is an ideal time to study it. While there will be some remediation or mitigation recommendations in the plan, the bulk of the plan will be directed at preservation of resources and prevention of future flooding problems. Municipalities included in the Newport Drainage Ditch subwatershed are Wadsworth, Zion and Beach Park along with significant unincorporated areas, including portions of Newport, Zion, and Benton Townships.

Newport Drainage Ditch stakeholders are invited to get involved in the planning process. For more information, contact Tony Wolff ([twolff@co.lake.il.us](mailto:twolff@co.lake.il.us)).

## Bull Creek Restoration Project Gets Funding

A grant from the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control will address erosion problems along Bull Creek in the Lake Michigan watershed.

The \$100,000 grant targets a reach of Bull Creek that flows through Beach Park and to the Illinois Beach State Park. SMC is working alongside the nonprofit, citizen-based Bull Creek Stakeholders Association (BCSA) on the project. The project will restore and stabilize 1500 ft. of streambank and streambed, improve water quality, and remove non-native species.

There is an impending need for this project as sanitary sewer lines and manholes are exposed from the erosion. The North Shore Sanitary District is currently stabilizing upstream lines and manholes.

The Bull Creek project is concentrating on a reach where there is not only exposed infrastructure but where homeowners have shown a great interest and have granted easements for the project. There are other reaches where homes are being impacted and funding for more stabilization is being sought.

## WetPro IV Forum Scheduled for Aug. 8

Wetland professionals, consultants and regulators are invited to next WetPro on Aug. 8, 10:00 a.m. at the Lake Zurich Village Hall, 70 E. Main.

The topic is "Wetland Mitigation Hydrology." This forum is sponsored by V3 Consultants and Agri Drain Corporation. A \$5 fee payable at the door includes a continental breakfast.

Please **RSVP by Aug. 1** via email to [cgarner@co.lake.il.us](mailto:cgarner@co.lake.il.us). Forum notes and PowerPoint presentations will be on our website after the forum.

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Tom Skinner, Village of Lake Bluff  
Mike Talbett, County Board #19

Ward Miller, AICP, Executive Director

**Summer 2003 Newsletter - Please notify us of address changes.**

**For Your Information**

**SMC Meetings - 6:30 p.m.**  
Aug. 7, Sept. 4. SMC offices.

**TAC Meetings - 9:00 a.m.**  
July 28, Aug. 15, Sept. 19. SMC offices.

**NPDES Phase II Municipal Advisory Committee - 9:00 a.m.**  
Sept. 10. SMC offices.

**SMC staffers Patty Werner and Jason Obergfell** made presentations at the ASFPM national conference in May. Werner's "Incorporating Flood Damage Mitigation Into A Watershed-Based Open Space Plan" and Obergfell's "No Adverse Impact: 10 Years of Experience in Lake County, IL" were among a number of selected presentations made by floodplain and stormwater practitioners to an audience of over 900 attendees.

**2002 Comp Plan Update...** You can download the Plan in PDF format from our website under "Publications."

**Congratulations to Watershed Planner Sara Agahi** who passed the State's Professional Engineer (P.E.) exam. Sara is now a registered P.E.

**Maps galore...** Check out the County's GIS and Mapping website at [www.co.lake.il.us/gis](http://www.co.lake.il.us/gis). The site includes 1939-1993 aerial photography, plat maps, countywide district maps and ordering information.

**Smaller FIRMS...** FEMA is now offering a user to create a "firmette" online, a smaller version of the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and save the file to his/her personal computer. This is a good option for people not able to visit our office for a copy of a FEMA map for their property. Use the following link to try out the firmette option on FEMA's website:  
<http://map1.msc.fema.gov/idms/>

**Tally it up....** The latest count in the Williams Park Subdivision Buyout: 40 homes and 41 adjoining properties returned in their natural state to the floodplain.

**Tally it up II....** Month of May Watershed Development Ordinance permit submittals totalled 82. Total permits submitted to date are 394.

**NPS Outreach...** The 3rd annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Information and Outreach Programs national conference will explore practical, state-of-the-art examples of successful outreach programs through multimedia sessions. The conference's target audiences include nonpoint source, watershed, and TMDL program staff. For more information, contact Bob Kirschner, Chicago Botanic Garden, at [bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org).